

Disability Awareness and Support (DAS) Program Advisory Committee Meeting MINUTES

This meeting had four main objectives:

- Understand the need, purpose and intent of the new Disability Awareness and Support Advisory Committee within the context of the grant.
 - Understand the key program activities associated with the Disability Awareness and Support grant, and the role of the Advisory Committee in the project.
 - Identify priority item and action steps for each working group.
 - Commit as a working member of the Advisory Committee and a specific workgroup.
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I. MEETING INFORMATION

Date: 01/27/2017

Time: 8:30-1:00 p.m.

Location: Maryland Hospital Association, 6820 Deerpath Rd, Elkridge, MD, 21075

II. TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: 30 total (including 5 organizing staff from the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control and Maryland Department of Disabilities)

Representation from 17 different organizations; representation from 4 different centers from within the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (including the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control, the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control, the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services); representation from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (including the Office of Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs); representation from the Developmental Disabilities Administration; and representation from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

2. Understanding the Impact of Disability on Health

3. Building Capacity for a Disability Awareness and Support Program in Maryland

4. Role of the Advisory Committee

Vision of the DAS Program: A Maryland where all citizens will have equal access to opportunities and resources to lead healthy lives within their communities.

Mission of the DAS Program is to improve the health status of people with disabilities in the community by:

- **Facilitating programmatic and environmental changes to improve access** to state- and community-based health promotion programs
 - **Increasing the competency** of internal and external public health professionals on disability-related issues
 - **Promoting the support needs** of people with disabilities to maintain a healthy lifestyle and to be engaged in their communities
 - **Developing sustainable** and mutually-beneficial community partnerships
 - **Increasing the availability** and use of health promotion resources, tools, and inclusion strategies
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Role of the DAS Advisory Committee:

- Provide advice and guidance on work plan activities; set priorities
- Assess current public health programming access and inclusion
- Outlining recommendations for future public health planning programming expansion and improvement
- Facilitate dialogue and allow for the exchanging of ideas
- Foster partnerships at the local and state levels to ensure sustainability

Five main themes arose from the discussion led by Jennifer. When asked, “***What do you hope to gain from the partnership?***”, Advisory Committee members expressed the following:

- Improved partnerships/care coordination - connecting linkages between systems (health, advocacy, direct services etc.) and building better systems for referrals of services.
- Improved training initiatives to improve knowledge and awareness in the health care community and for public health professionals – members expressed the need for self-advocates to lead the initiative.
- Better systems for data collection as it relates to disability in Maryland. Members want to be able to measure outcomes for improvement for the disability community.
- More leadership opportunities - especially for self-advocates and people with disabilities
- Improved awareness of opportunities and sharing of resources – members expressed that we should be integrating what we do (collect data together, collaborate on evaluation together, share grant opportunities etc.)

5. Defining Work Group Priorities

a. Public Health Skills and Competency Priorities:

b. Accessibility and Accommodations Priorities:

- By July 31st, 2017 develop a “golden-standard” document for assessing public health programs for accessibility and accommodations.
- By February 1st, 2018 vet this document with the larger Advisory Committee.

c. Communications and Outreach Priorities:

- By June 30, 2017, develop a list of all relevant disability surveillance data sources.
- By June 30, 2017, identify two academic partners to provide guidance/technical expertise related to data surveillance, evaluation and assessment tools.
- By June 30, 2018, conduct a statewide comprehensive needs assessment to identify resources and needs across the jurisdictions.

III. IMPORTANT MEETING REMINDERS

- You should have gotten a follow-up email from your Work Group to schedule a meeting/call time. If not and would like to be included, please contact your meeting facilitator:
 - Public Health Skills and Competency: Erin Ashinghurst, Erin.Ashinghurst@maryland.gov
 - Accessibility and Accommodations: Jennifer Eastman, Jennifer.eastman@maryland.gov
 - Communications and Outreach: Eileen Sparling, Eileen.Sparling@maryland.gov